

MEND THE PAVEMENTS.

Mr. P. L. Bonebrake Expresses His Opinions Vigorously.

HIS BANK HAVING SPENT \$5,000

To Put Down the Asphalt Pavement Is Not Ready to Pay for Another Pavement Simply to Help Through a Brick Scheme.

To the Editor of the State Journal.

Sir—I read with interest your article in regard to our paved streets and induce you to print it in full.

The authorities and persons who talk of allowing our paved streets to go to ruin, seem to forget that it was and is the citizens who own the lots, on the paved streets who have and are paying for the paving and not the city.

To illustrate, the Central National bank and its directors have paid more than \$5,000 for pavements on the two corners of Seventh and Kansas avenue and their homes. The public has used those pavements for six years and now because a small amount is needed for repairs, it is proposed to let the pavement go, and after a time compel these lot owners to be at the expense of another pavement.

Besides such a scheme, highway robbery would become respectable. A man may defend himself against a robber, but cannot against police officers who fail to perform a trust like this.

Returning to the question of expense, Harrison street has been paved from Third to tenth streets, seven blocks. The pavement has been used six years. During that time it has not cost the Barber Asphalt company nor the city \$22,000 to keep it in repair. The beauty of our paved streets is the subject of remark by every stranger and the pride of our own people.

I am perfectly willing that all new pavements shall be of brick, but I am not willing that the lot owners shall be compelled to sacrifice the half million and more dollars already expended in good pavements to carry out a brick scheme that is now being worked up by interested parties.

Let me ask a question. Suppose one individual should give another the free use for a period of ten or twenty years of a new house complete in all its appointments, provided the user would keep that house painted? Suppose after he had used the house the tenant should refuse to carry out the contract? You would at once say he was a (no adjective) dog.

P. L. BONEBRAKE.

NOT CONTAGIOUS.

The Allment Among the Cattle Near Hutchinson, Kansas.

To the Editor of the State Journal.

Sir—There has been a good deal of inquiry at this office in regard to an outbreak of a disease among the cattle near Hutchinson, Kansas, on or about March 9th.

The general opinion as expressed by most of the correspondents seems to be that the disease is not contagious or infectious nature. I made a visit to the scene of the outbreak on March 9th, and found that the disease was caused by the cattle eating rotten straw, where hogs had been allowed to run, and there was nothing contagious or infectious about the disease.

Geo. C. Partmann,

State Veterinarian of Kansas.

DOUGLASS AND SHERIFFS.

His Statement of the Disagreement Between Himself and Them.

Mr. Geo. L. Douglass is in the city a few hours this morning. His attention was called to the article in the JOURNAL of Saturday giving an account of his visit to the meeting of the sheriffs and of the sheriffs' opposition to him. Mr. Douglass said that the newspapers had been seriously misinformed on this whole matter. It was published broadsheet some weeks ago that the sheriffs' association had adopted a resolution condemning him for having favored a bill making a reduction in sheriffs' fees. He said he was informed that this was wholly untrue and that no such resolution had ever been passed. He said that many of the sheriffs were his strong personal and political friends. At the request of several of these friends he went to the meeting and explained his reasons for supporting the measure complained of.

Mr. Douglass said that it had been the almost universal rule in Sedgewick county for plaintiffs in foreclosure cases to bid in the property for a nominal sum, leaving the unsatisfied judgment hanging over the heads of the debtor; and the reason uniformly given for this was that if the plaintiff had the property up to its value he would have to pay the sheriff's commission on the bid. Hence for some years there had been a strong demand in Sedgewick county that the commissioners in such cases should be abolished in order to encourage parties to bid up property to its fair value. This was one reason for the provision complained of which nearly all the Republicans in the state voted for. He said that it was a mistake. It was the result of no bad motive and there had been no desire to do any injustice to anybody. Mr. Douglass said that the popular sheriffs were naturally very much opposed to him, but he was proud to say that a large number of the Republicans' sheriffs were his friends.

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AT THE CITY HALL.

Complaint that the Main Woods sidewalks is being condemned.

This is the time of the year when the sidewalk inspector goes about the city from street to street, condemning promiscuously the sidewalks of the tax payers. That is, some inspectors do. Topeka has a new inspector. He is C. D. Brusman, the ex-policeman. Mayor Harrison appointed him several days ago, but he did not tell anybody and no one said anything about it. Mr. Brusman is a very careful man and fewer complaints are expected from his work than that of the average inspector.

The law provides that none but permanent sidewalks shall be laid within the city limits. By "permanent" is meant brick, stone, concrete or asphalt; anything but timber. In the spring of each year it is customary to condemn a large amount of temporary sidewalk and then for the entire contractor to lay all the walk to the lowest bidder.

This year the walks in the whole block between Seventh and Eighth on Tyler, were condemned. J. J. Pitt lives on the corner. He built a new walk about two years ago. He says his walk is far superior to the average walk about town. He says he doesn't propose to be singled out any longer and does express his determination to fight the sidewalk in-spector's ruling in the courts.

A. W. Thackam is another property owner who complains that the efforts of the sidewalk inspectors are misdirected. He thinks that older houses have "glass eyes," as the old walls are unbroken and the walks in bad repair are condemned.

These complaints and many others are not all directed against Mr. Brusman. Most of the abuses which are complained of were made before he went into office.

Mr. Hittpony makes the charge that the city offices under whose charge the walks are condemned, have a "hand in" with the brick manufacturers and the brick contractors. "That," he says, "is the most logical conclusion from such wholesale condemnation of sidewalk, it makes business better for those who repair the walks."

THE ORDINANCE SIGNED.

Mayor Harrison Adds His Signature to the Telephone Franchise.

Mayor Harrison today signed the ordinance giving the Hartson International Telephone company a franchise to operate in Topeka.

The mayor acted very cautiously in the matter. The ordinance was subjected to a close scrutiny, not only from a legal standpoint, but for investigation of the city's protection of the privileges granted. When Jim Bear and others representing the new telephone company applied to the mayor yesterday to find out why the ordinance was not signed, the mayor told them they must open their stock books and sell some of their stocks and file their charter before he would sign the ordinance. The telephone people agreed to do this, and the ordinance was signed to-day in the presence of City Clerk McFadden and a JOURNAL reporter.

THE REGISTRATION COMPLETE.

The Number Registered in Each Ward and the Female Tax.

The complete registration of the city by wards was finished up today by the election commissioners. The result is as follows, published for the first time:

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
1st ward.....	1184	259	1343
2nd ward.....	1382	716	2098
3rd ward.....	930	260	1190
4th ward.....	850	216	1066
5th ward.....	514	178	692
Totals.....	5074	1030	6704

CITY HALL NOTES.

Items of Interest From the Various Municipal Departments.

W. S. Eastman is doing clerical work in the election department.

City Clerk McFadden is a delegate to the Emporia convention. He left at 11:30 o'clock.

City Engineer Lewis Kingman has almost regained his health. He was at his desk all day today.

Councilman Burgess wants the blocks bounded by Second and Third streets, Taylor and Western avenue, made out of dirt in order that the alley may be opened.

Major Harrison went to Emporia today to attend the congressional convention. He is not a delegate, but as this is the first congressional convention of the year in Topeka it is Harry Curtis' home, and he is anxious that Topeka should be well represented as possible.

Major Douglass said that it had been the almost universal rule in Sedgewick county for plaintiffs in foreclosure cases to bid in the property for a nominal sum, leaving the unsatisfied judgment hanging over the heads of the debtor; and the reason uniformly given for this was that if the plaintiff had the property up to its value he would have to pay the sheriff's commission on the bid.

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